

THE GREEN BOOK



BY MUAMMAR AL QADHAFI

PART 1

The solution of the problem of Democracy

PART 2

The solution of the Economic Problem

PART 3

The Social Basis of the Third Universal Theory

In these three volumes the Libyan leader examines the economic, social and political problems confronting the world today, and presents a radical programme for their solution.

The Green Book provides a comprehensive review of the theories on which the Libyan Jamahiriya is based. The proposals put forward by Muammar al Qadhafi are not merely theories but an explanation and insight into the structure and priorities of modern Libya.

Copies of The Green Book can be obtained from The Information Department, The Libyan People's Bureau of the Socialist Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, 5 St James's Square, London SW1.

jamahiriya review

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Muammar
Qadhafi
talks to
Thames Television



LIBYA AND THE BOMB

See page 14

Give peace a chance

Dear Comrades,

The reported 'Hit squad' the Reagan Administration claims is now in Mexico has to be the biggest scam and ploy in modern history. The United States Government's disdain for Third World people is shown in his South Africa love affair, the thousands of Americans without shelter, and the Administration is guilty of conspiracy to commit countless murders in El Salvador.

Now the Reagan clique insults the intelligence of the entire civilised world with accusations that are slanderous at best and enumerates a racist and chauvinist policy. In fact the majority of Afro-Americans and working class people in America wish we had the same conditions as the Libyan people since the Revolution in 1969.

Reagan and Nancy paid a quarter of a million dollars for dishes when unemployment is record high and tens of millions of American citizens are without decent housing.

Mr Regan and his entourage should realise that the world is vastly different today than it was in 1937 and on the movie set. Give peace a chance Mr Reagan, because the people of Libya and many countries in the Mid-East and Africa will help deter an American invasion of Libya. We should not send innocent young Americans to die for folly and whims of a few monopoly-capitalists who will benefit from the sells of war and death machinery while the majority of us will suffer. We have enough problems with many Americans with families on the brink of desperation, unemployed and record breaking foreclosures putting good people in the streets.

How in the name of honesty, with all the clamor about taxes and the growth of government, can the Reagan Administration afford a conflict of war with Libya and the millions of supporters and anti-imperialist fighters.

Once again I say Mr Reagan should give peace a chance because the day when people would tremble at the threat by the President are long gone.

*In struggle,
Roy Leo Harris
Malcolm X League
Miami*

Message from Tripoli

Dear Sir

I am writing to say I found the *Jamahiriyah Review* most informative about Libya and its misunder-



"WELL YES, THE C.I.A. DID PLOT ASSASSINATION ATTEMPTS ON VARIOUS POLITICAL LEADERS, BUT THERE WAS CERTAINLY NO HARM INTENDED..."

stood revolution. No other publication expresses so succinctly the political, social and cultural goings-on in that country.

I wish you good luck and a greater readership.

*Very truly yours,
Francis Cevallos,
Tripoli*

Reagan exposed

Dear Sir,

I congratulate you on the excellent series of articles exposing the latest fantasies of President Reagan, whose dislike of Libya is well known. I refer especially to the US Administration's latest claim concerning an alleged 'assassination squad, led by an East German sent to the USA to kill the President'. Needless to say, the most thorough enquiries have failed to establish the existence of any such 'hit team' which is obviously the product of a diseased mind.

It would appear that the Libyan people's refusal to be intimidated by the US Imperialists' aggressive actions in the Gulf of Sirte

and the provocative Bright Star manoeuvres, has brought the usual irrational campaign of lies upon the head of the Libyan authorities.

We must reconcile, therefore, that the paranoid US government has not forgiven the Libyan people for its criticism of the Camp David betrayal, its firm support for the Palestinian cause, and of progressive movements such as those of Chad in the face of imperialist attacks.

As far as the GDR is concerned, it is a well known fact that the country has always supported the national liberation movements in Africa, Asia and the Middle East, and has always made the strongest protests against the bellicose Reagan administration's aggressive attacks upon the Libyan People's Jamahiriyah. Due to this, the US has decided to invent the completely mythical GDR participant in their non-existent 'murder squad' to blacken the good name of both Libya and the GDR.

Once again to justify his crude acts of aggression and his un-

precedented and absolutely unacceptable contravention of accepted international practice against Libya, President Reagan has resorted to his usual tactics of direct deceit and lies. Like Nazi Dr Goebbels before him, the President obviously believes the bigger the lie the better.

*Yours faithfully,
William A Burborough
Press and Publicity Officer
London Branch
British-GDR Friendship Society*

Letters welcome from our readers

We are pleased to receive letters from our readers. If you would like to express your views on any subject through the columns of our magazine, please write to: The Letters Editor, *Jamahiriyah Review*, 13A Hillgate Street, London W8 7SP, England. We reserve the right to shorten long letters.

jamahiriyah review

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□ **COVER STORY:** The threat of a nuclear war in Europe, between the super-powers, has prompted hundreds of thousands of Europeans to protest in recent months against the United States nuclear build-up in Europe. Linking the common rejection of Washington's military plans which are shared by progressive Arabs, we examine Libya's forthright opposition to nuclear weapons emphasised by Muammer Qadhafi's statement, 'Human beings have committed no greater crime than the invention and use of the atom bomb.' See page 14.

□ **BRITAIN AND LIBYA:** An unequivocal rejection of American schemes against the Jamahiriyah has been voiced in the House of Lords by government spokesman Lord Trefgarne. An analysis of Britain's position appears on page 10, in a report which also looks at recent allegations voiced by Lord Paget.

□ **INTERVIEW:** In a lengthy interview with Britain's Thames Television programme TV Eye, the Libyan leader Muammer Qadhafi replied to wide-ranging questions on current events. Extracts from this important interview by Peter Gill appear on page 9.

□ **MEDIA REPORT:** Recent weeks have witnessed a massive and concerted propaganda campaign waged by the American administration against the Libyan Jamahiriyah through the western media. With an early January statement from the FBI that no evidence existed to support claims of a Libyan threat to President Reagan's life, Phil Kelly analyses the hit-team scare on pages 11/12.

□ **REVOLUTION IN ACTION:** Continuing our series on the development achievements of the Libyan Revolution, on pages 16/17 we examine the progress in the educational system within the Jamahiriyah, and the prospects following the recent opening of the new Marsa Brega University for technical studies.

□ **RAILWAYS:** A number of British companies are involved in the development of Libya's new country-wide railway system. On page 15, Dr Alan George talks to the Managing Director of Britain's Transmark company and reviews the regional implications of the scheme which would be the final link in a railroad from Cairo to Morocco.

□ **NEXT ISSUE:** As we went to press, the Jamahiriyah's supreme legislature, the General People's Congress, was in session in Tripoli. Next month we will report on the decisions taken by the Congress, and the reports of the speech by the Libyan revolutionary leader, Muammer Qadhafi.

COMMENT

Readers' Letters 2
Editorial: People's unity is the real way forward 4

PANORAMA NEWS REVIEW

A monthly summary of news and events from the Libyan Jamahiriyah, the Arab homeland and the Third World
Follow Christ's example, says Qadhafi 5
Zionists annex Syrian territory 5
Numeiri regime shoots protesters dead 5
New moves in Saudi-Libyan relations 5
Greece moves towards Arab solidarity 6
Africa spurns Israel 6
Ghana's revolution looks to the Jamahiriyah system 6
Libya's commitment to human rights 7
Red Sea alliance meets 7
Support for Angola against US backed subversion 7
US 'violates international law' 8
Reagan human rights record 'catastrophic' 8
People's Bureau opens in Seoul 8

NEWS REPORTS

Muammer Qadhafi talks to Thames Television 9
Britain opposes aggression against Libya 10
Lies, damned lies, and Reagan's allegations 11
Palestinian uprising rejects sham 'civilian' rule 13

FEATURES

'No greater crime than the invention and use of the atom bomb' 14

TRADE, DEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMY

Libya enters the railway era 15
Marsa Brega University: A landmark in educational opportunities 16
New bid to cut foreign food imports 18
British phone company gets a line 19
LAIFIC rescues Italian firm 18
British petrochemicals contract for Ras Lanouf 18
Tripoli airport expands to meet demand 19
Aid for Africa and Latin America 19

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People's unity is the real way forward

IT IS not only over the question of relations with the Libyan Jamahiriya that the western alliance is falling apart; the cracks were evident for some years before the crisis over Poland drove them out into the open. The differences between western European countries and the United States are not new; but the situation of a prolonged recession has made it more difficult than ever before for conflicts between western nations to be resolved.

For more than a generation, the west has had formal and informal forums where disagreements between the rulers of western countries could be tackled, and compromises reached. All of this, needless to say, went on behind closed doors and in the absence of any significant public debate in most western countries on foreign policy questions.

It is becoming more and more difficult to keep these matters from the public eye. The differences over Poland are only part of the story. The western alliance is being kept together with mounting difficulty; there are problems about relationships with Turkey, about the whole future of western interests in Middle East oil, and last but not least, the Europeans' increasingly overt contempt for the hysterical paranoia which America has substituted for a policy towards Libya.

It is easy for political commentators to dismiss each of these problems as separate small irritations which can be tackled individually, within a framework which remains basically sound. Most political writers in the western media would far rather not inform their readers about the slightest detail of the backstairs machinations of the Common Market and NATO, and any journalist who went so far as to suggest that his country might find life more comfortable outside the clutches of the western system would soon lose his establishment contacts and then his livelihood.

Because they did not tell the truth about the western alliance in the days when it was more healthy, the media now find it impossible to explain its imminent collapse. Since World War II, there has been no real alliance; only the steady triumph of American interests over those of the former colonial powers such as Britain and France. NATO was created principally in order to ensure access for the Americans to the markets of western Europe and Europe's colonial empires. Politicians have been prepared to go along with this erosion of European interests because they were able to frighten the gullible public with periodic scares about 'international communism', or in recent years, 'international terrorism', which apparently required western nations to huddle together like panic-stricken sheep facing a wolf; and like sheep, not to ask why.

Meanwhile, America was able to replace European colonial administrations with compliant local elites and puppet regimes in the Arab homeland and elsewhere in the Third World.

At least in part, current problems in the west, between Europe and the United States, are caused by western countries' desires to go on trading with countries which the United States wishes to embargo. The principal example cited in recent weeks is the direct harm which any disruption to trade links with the Soviet Union would cause to West German firms, involved directly in major engineering contracts. But the United States has over the past few weeks tried crude pressure on other western countries in order to

get them to sever their links with the Libyan Jamahiriya. At the beginning of December, Secretary of State General Haig tried unsuccessfully to persuade western European countries' representatives at the NATO ministerial meeting that they should support America's campaign against the Jamahiriya. His pleas fell on deaf ears.

Obviously, this is not because the Foreign Office, the Quay d'Orsay or any other European Foreign Ministry wants to further the aims of the 1st September Revolution. Simply, British, French, West German and other western firms make profits in supplying the development needs of the Libyan Jamahiriya. Profit leaves little room for sentiment.

Nevertheless, there is something desperate about the United States' position when it even needs to put pressure on the Republic of Ireland — not a NATO country — to stop trading with the Libyan Jamahiriya. There is also irony in seeing America, the country which above all championed free trade, now trying to control trade for political reasons.

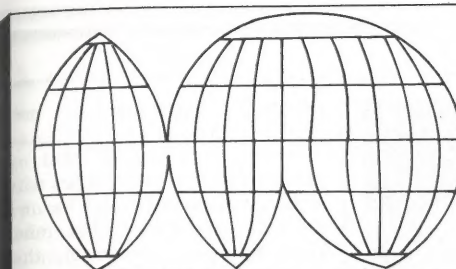
But the temporary disagreements between western governments are not just over immediate national interests. European finance is closely connected, through cartels, international investment, subsidiary companies, joint ventures and the like, with American capital. The situation now is not that prevailing before World War I, when the competition between various western imperialist interests resulted in a bloody and pointless war.

The various nationally-based capitalisms are not challenging each other in the manner of seventy years ago. What is happening is that the overseas interests of the West are being challenged by popular movements, by new political ideas of equality and self-sufficiency, of which the Libyan Jamahiriya is the main embodiment.

The reaction of the United States parallels those of the colonial powers when their empires were under threat. In the Gulf of Sirte in August, America performed the 1980s equivalent of sending a gunboat. By calling for a trade boycott of Libya, the US is merely updating the colonial policy of 'collective punishment' often used by the British and now so beloved of the Zionists in occupied Palestine. When one individual is guilty of resisting, the whole village, or tribe, or even country, is punished as criminals.

In the long term, as recent events in Ghana and elsewhere have shown, it is the ideas of freedom and equality embodied in the 1st September Revolution which will prevail. But in the short term, there are great dangers, not only for the Libyan Jamahiriya, but for the whole of the Arab world. A system in its death throes, like the American system, can cause severe injuries to those who would restrain its excesses, and even to innocent bystanders. The decision by America's Zionist surrogates to seize the Syrian Arab Golan is just one recent example of this.

In this short term, there is a need for the Arab nation, and all those who support its aspirations to come together and to denounce and resist these moves. Recent renewals of diplomatic contacts by Arab states which severed their links with Libya are welcome, as is the ending of any inter-Arab dispute. But really to counter the irrational aggression by the West means that relations between states must be transcended by direct relations between people. Unity to fight the enemies of the Arab nation is essential; but the only unity which will succeed is a unity of peoples, not of regimes.



Follow Christ's example, says Qadhafi

LIBYAN REVOLUTIONARY leader Muammer Qadhafi has cabled heads of Islamic and Christian countries asking them to assess their policies in the light of Christian teachings.

In a message marking the start of the Christian New Year, Colonel Qadhafi recommended several tenets of the Christian faith as a sound basis for policy formation. In particular, he recalled that Christ had advocated an end to exploitation, and the settlement of disputes by peaceful means.

Brother Qadhafi went on to point out that many leaders of nominally Christian countries consistently ignored Christ's teachings. Ironically, the Libyan leader concluded, the policies of non-Christian countries often conformed much more closely with Christian thinking.

Zionists annex Syrian territory

THE ZIONISTS on 14th December announced the annexation of Syrian territory on the Golan Heights, occupied by Israel

since 1967. The move came as local Arabs appeared to have defeated Zionist moves to force the Syrians living under Israeli military occupation to carry Israeli identity cards, thereby giving legitimacy to the Zionist rule.

Although the Zionist move has been widely condemned throughout the world, the United States subsequently approved military and economic aid to Israel for 1983 at a higher level than at present, making it clear that whatever public criticism might be levelled at Israel by Washington, the United States will remain a firm ally of the Zionist regime in occupied Palestine. Washington also made it known that it would veto any bid by Syria in the UN Security Council to have sanctions applied against Israel for its breach of international law.

The Israeli move to annex the Golan has far-reaching implications. It is believed that the Zionist regime took the move to test international reactions, prior to announcing the annexation of the West Bank and Gaza regions of Palestine, which were also occupied by Israel in the 1967 war. Israel has consistently declared that it will not withdraw from the West Bank and Gaza, proposing instead some form of 'autonomy' for the Palestinians in the territories, limited to powers normally

held by municipal councils. With the American veto set to block any firm measures against Israel, the Zionist regime has been given a green light by Washington to move ahead with the annexation of the West Bank and Gaza. In 1967, Israel announced the illegal annexation of Arab Jerusalem, and subsequently declared the city to be the 'eternal' capital of the Zionist state.

Numeiri regime shoots protester dead

SUDANESE UNIVERSITIES closed indefinitely in early January following four days of student demonstrations against price rises imposed by the regime of President Numeiri. It was reported that one student had been killed and two others wounded when police fired at the demonstrators protesting a 62 per cent increase in sugar prices. Petrol prices are reported to have risen by 50 per cent.

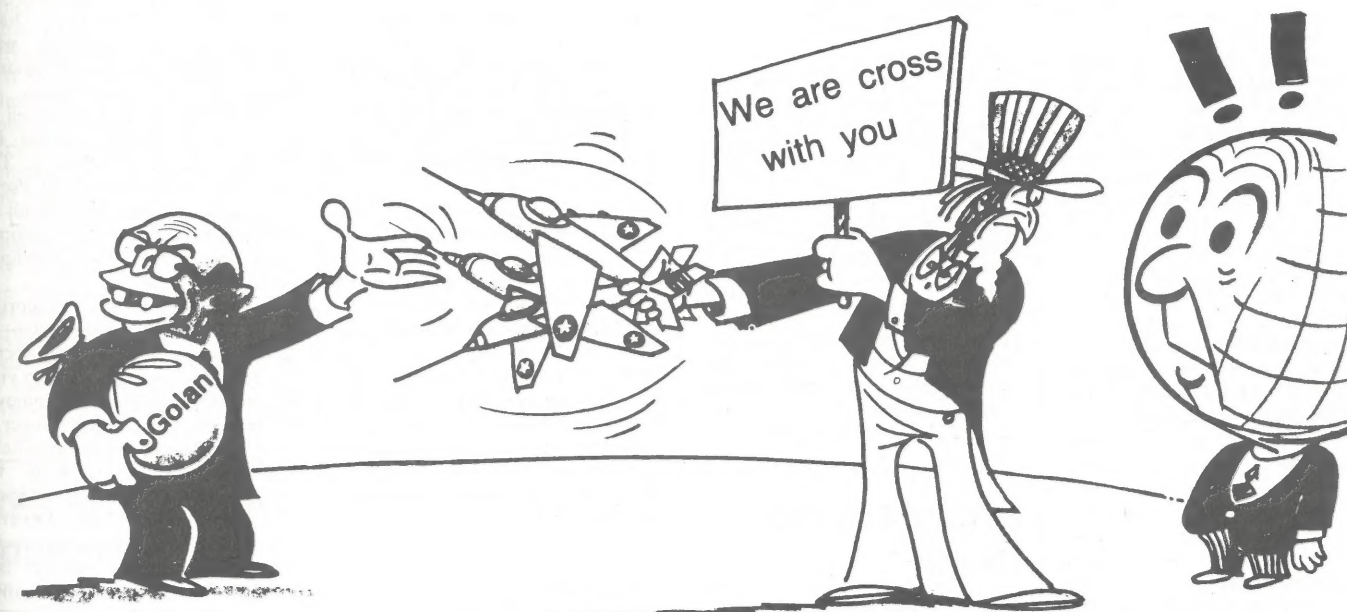
Despite widespread popular opposition to his regime, President Numeiri had earlier submitted to demands from the IMF to order wide-ranging price increases to reduce the government's budget deficit of \$120

million in the next six months. Numeiri was told by the American controlled IMF that if such measures were not adopted forthwith, a further credit of \$220 million would not be made available to the beleaguered regime in Khartoum.

New moves in Saudi-Libyan relations

THE LIBYAN Jamahiriya and Saudi Arabia have restored diplomatic relations after a break of more than one year. The move came on 1st January, and was accompanied by a statement from Libya's Foreign Liaison Bureau saying it had been prompted by the need for Arab unity. A similar announcement was issued by the Saudi Arabian Foreign Ministry saying that diplomatic ties had been restored to 'heal rifts in Arab relations and unify Arab action against the common enemy'.

Saudi Arabia severed relations with Libya in October 1980 after strong criticism by the Jamahiriya of Riyadh's close political and military ties with the US. Particular acrimony had arisen over the Saudi decision to allow US Air Force AWACS early warning



►planes to patrol the Kingdom, ostensibly for defensive purposes. There were persistent reports that the planes' real mission was to monitor the progress of the Iraq-Iran war, and to provide intelligence information to the invading Iraqis.

The restoration of Libyan-Saudi relations came amid a flurry of Arab diplomatic initiatives to unify their stance against Israel in response to the Zionists' illegal annexation of the occupied Syrian Golan Heights. A key aim has been to end the Iraq-Iran war, which has sharply divided the Arabs. Iraq broke diplomatic relations with both Syria and the Jamahiriya shortly after the war started, accusing them of giving Iran military support. Syria, which has close ties with Iran, and Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, which lean to the Iraqi position, are now playing key roles as mediators between the combatants.

The same day as the Libyan-Saudi rapprochement, Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati held talks in Damascus with Syrian President Hafez al Assad on the war. At the conclusion of the talks it was announced that President Assad would be visiting Tehran soon for further discussions.

Another objective of current diplomatic efforts is to end the polarisation of the Arab countries over Saudi Prime Minister Fahd's controversial eight-point plan for a settlement of the Palestine conflict. Differences over the plan led to the collapse of November's Arab summit conference in Fez, Syria, together with the other members of the Arab Steadfastness and Confrontation Front — Libya, Algeria, Democratic Yemen and the PLO — were suspicious of the plan's apparent provision for recognition of the Zionist state. Saudi Arabia was particularly angry over President Assad's refusal even to attend the Fez meeting. In late December, however, the Syrian President visited Riyadh for discussions with the Saudi leadership, paving the way for possible Arab reconciliation over the Palestine issue.

Another sign of the closing of Arab ranks in the face of Israel's latest act of expansion was December's visit to Tripoli by Kuwaiti Prime Minister Sheikh Sa'ad Abdullah al Salim. In a joint communiqué issued after talks with a Libyan delegation headed by Major Abdel Salam Jalloud, and two countries stressed their determination to strengthen their economic and political ties. They repeated their condemnation of Israel's annexation of the Golan Heights and, in a clear reference to the repeated US military provocations in the Arab homeland, reaffirmed their opposition to 'any form of foreign presence or military intervention' in the Gulf region.



Greek Premier Papandreu gives a warm greeting to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in Athens.

Greece moves towards Arab solidarity

DECLARING THAT Greece would act as a bridge between the Palestinians and Europe, Greek Premier Andreas Papandreu welcomed PLO leader Yasser Arafat to Athens on 16th December for an official visit. It was the Palestinian leader's first official visit to an EEC and NATO member state.

Mr Papandreu hailed the Palestinian struggle as 'the noblest struggle in this region, even in the whole world', and confirmed that the PLO mission in Athens would in future enjoy full diplomatic status.

Greece's role in NATO and the EEC appears set on a collision course with the Reagan administration. At the recent NATO meeting in Brussels, Greece rejected US calls for sanctions against the Libyan Jamahiriya. And while Mr Arafat was in Athens, the Greek government announced that an official information office would be opened shortly in the Libyan capital, Tripoli. In a move towards closer ties with the Arab nation, Greece will open similar offices in Syria, Algeria, Saudi Arabia and Iraq.

Africa spurns Israel

THE ZIONIST state's annexation of the occupied Syrian Golan Heights has prompted a number of African countries to drop plans

to restore links with Israel, severed at the time of the October 1973 Arab-Israeli war. They had intended to resume links after the final Israeli withdrawal from Sinai in April.

The African states' decision is a major blow for Israel, which has been studiously courting them in a bid to end its almost total diplomatic isolation in the Third World. Zionist defence minister General Sharon last November made secret visits to Gabon, Zaire, the Ivory Coast, the Central African Republic and Nigeria. The US journal *Strategy Week* reported on 14th December that Sharon also visited Sudan.

The groundwork for General Sharon's tour was laid during an earlier tour by David Kimche, Director General of the Israeli Foreign Ministry. Kimche is a former high ranking official in Mossad, the Israeli foreign intelligence service, where he specialised in African affairs.

There was a close link between the African states' change of heart over Israel and the strategic co-operation treaty concluded between Tel Aviv and Washington last November. This provided for the US to stockpile arms in Israel, ostensibly for use by the Rapid Deployment Force. But the hardware would also be made available to western orientated regimes in Africa, both to defend them against internal uprisings and to enable them to launch attacks on their non-aligned neighbours. On 11th December the *Jewish Chronicle* quoted senior Israeli officials as confirming that 'Israel had stepped up her contacts with them [African states] as part of an American-

approved co-operation programme'.

Israel also hoped that a resumption of diplomatic ties with black Africa would boost its own arms exports. On 6th December *The Observer* revealed that General Sharon had been accompanied in Africa by Mr Aryeh Ganger, an Israeli-American whom the minister recently persuaded to return to the Zionist state to supervise weapons sales abroad.

The US and Israel are now engaged in a desperate campaign to repair the damage caused by the Golan seizure. At the end of December David Kimche was despatched to the same African states visited by General Sharon, and on 1st January the *Jewish Chronicle* reported that he had also 'paid a secret visit to Washington to try to enlist American support for Israel's efforts to renew diplomatic relations with black African states'. There are no indications that the Africans will respond to the renewed overtures from Israel and the US.

Ghana's revolution looks to the Jamahiri system of democracy

FOLLOWING HIS return to power on 31st December, Flt Lt Jerry Rawlings has announced that Ghana will restore diplomatic relations with the Libyan Jamahiriya and has praised the Libyan revolutionary model. In particular, Rawlings has called on the people to establish committees to assume control over the country's political process, and to defend the Revolution. Observers have pointed to the similarity with the Jamahiriya's political system based on popular committees.

All reports from Ghana tell of widespread popular support for the new Rawlings' regime. The overthrow of the regime of President Limann came as a result of widespread political and economic corruption, which Mr Rawlings has vowed to end.

In early January it was reported that a delegation from the Libyan Jamahiriya had arrived in Accra, the first foreign delegation to visit the country following the removal of President Limann from power.

The change of regime in Ghana marks a serious set-back for American influence in Africa, which has been directed towards isolating Libya from support on the continent. However, at last year's meeting of the Organisation of African Unity, American schemes failed when the OAU backed Libya's peace-keeping role in Chad as legitimate, and both

the OAU and the Jamahiriya agreed on the need to establish an OAU force in Chad to take over the burdens placed on Libya's forces. Moreover, the OAU agreed to stage the 1982 summit in July in Tripoli and that the Libyan leader Muammer Qadhafi should become the next Chairman of the OAU.

Libya's commitment to human rights

THE LIBYAN Jamahiriya has strongly reaffirmed its commitment to the principles of the International Declaration of Human Rights. In a telegram to Dr Kurt Waldheim on 10th December to mark the 33rd anniversary of the Declaration's signature, Mr Abdel Ati al Obeidi, Secretary of Libya's Foreign Liaison Bureau, pointed to the Israeli and South African regimes as pursuing policies that were not only in serious breach of the Declaration, but also endangered world peace. He added that Israel's policies, which in 1975 the UN General Assembly condemned as racist, were comparable only with the apartheid system operated by the Pretoria regime.

The Secretary of the Foreign Liaison Bureau reaffirmed the Jamahiriya's long standing support for the Palestinian people's struggle to achieve self-determination and establish an independent state in Palestine under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation. The message to the UN Secretary-General also reasserted Libya's commitment to the Namibian people's struggle for independence, led by their 'legitimate organisation', the South West African People's Organisation (SWAPO). Libya, said Mr Obeidi, joined with the UN Human Rights Committee in condemning South Africa's military assaults on its neighbours, including Zambia and Angola.

The Foreign Liaison Bureau's message ended with a call for the UN to step up measures against the Pretoria regime, and to take effective steps to ensure that Security Council Resolutions on southern Africa were implemented in full. The aim was the ultimate elimination of the 'crime of apartheid', the statement concluded.

Red Sea alliance meets

IN A further move to counter American plans for military penetration of the Middle East, delegations from the Libyan Jamahiriya, Ethiopia and democratic



State terrorists: South African forces threaten African independence as Libya condemns the apartheid system as a violation of human rights.

Yemen, which last year joined in a formal defence and co-operation pact, convened in Addis Ababa on 13th December for high level talks. No details were disclosed, but Addis Ababa radio said that the discussions were 'of major importance'.

After the tripartite meeting, Major Abdel Salam Jalloud, a close aide of Muammer Qadhafi, held wide-ranging discussions with Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Miriam. First Deputy Premier Ali Antar, who headed the Yemen delegation, also met with the Ethiopian leader.

The tripartite pact was formed to counter the growing US military threat in the Red Sea region, but Reagan administration officials have frequently sought to present the defensive alliance of progressive countries as simply a manifestation of 'Communist aggression'.

Support for Angola against US backed subversion

A MAJOR gathering of influential African and Arab non-governmental political figures in the Angolan capital Luanda has called for the creation of a common fund to finance national liberation movements in Africa and the Arab homeland. The delegates also declared their firm opposition to Washington's campaign of military intervention in Africa and the Arab region, and denounced the alliance between South Africa, Israel and the US.

The four-day conference, held under the auspices of the Tripoli-based Arab People's Congress, ended on 10th December after agreeing a programme of action

for 'mutual solidarity and strengthening national liberation movements', including the creation of a liberation fund.

The conference decisions were set out in the 'Luanda Declaration', which also condemned US policy in the Arab homeland and Africa. 'American military escalation is the most dangerous factor in the current imperialist offensive against Africa and the Arab world,' the conference declared. Delegates also agreed to campaign against 'foreign bases and alliances', and against 'the Tel Aviv-Pretoria axis and its strategic alliance with the US'.

In a message to the conference Libyan revolutionary leader Muammer Qadhafi said the Jamahiriya's armed forces were ready to intervene anywhere in the world to take part in 'the struggle against the powers of evil'. And in a message to Angolan President José Eduardo Dos Santos, Colonel Qadhafi said, 'We are obliged to take on the great responsibility of defending the cause of liberty in all parts of the world.'

The threats to African independence posed by the US and its allies were highlighted as the conference was meeting by the disclosure of another major South African assault on southern Angola. An army spokesman in Johannesburg admitted on 7th December that air and ground forces had conducted a 20-day operation in Angola during November, penetrating as far as 150 miles into the country. The attack was ostensibly aimed at forces of the South West African People's Organisation (SWAPO), which is fighting a guerrilla campaign for the independence of South African occupied Namibia. SWAPO, however, says that all its bases are in Namibia itself, and that the main targets of the South African assault had been Namibian refugee camps.

The latest major South African

attack on Angola came on 30th November when troops landed by submarine and blew up the country's only oil refinery, sited in the capital. It was reckoned that the sabotage operation, during which one of the invaders was killed, could put the plant out of action for as long as two months.

On 23rd December the Portuguese leftist newspaper *Diário de Lisboa* disclosed that a US-backed force of 2,000 Angolan terrorists had assembled in Zaire, in preparation for a possible major offensive against the Luanda government. It said the army of the so-called Military Committee for Angolan Resistance (COMIRA) had fifteen training camps along Zaire's frontier with Angola, and had US, Israeli, Egyptian and European advisers. 'They have a DC-3 and DC-4 [aircraft] provided by the Reagan administration that have been transporting numerous supplies to Angola where they land on secret airstrips built under the direct supervision of North American servicemen and European mercenaries,' the paper said.

The COMIRA force was poised to co-operate closely with the South African backed rightist rebels of UNITA, which operate in southern Angola, the paper said. Washington's aim was to pressure the Luanda government to adopt a more pro-western stance, the paper added, explaining, 'Only if diplomatic efforts fail will COMIRA enter the game on a large scale in co-operation with UNITA.'

Diário de Lisboa also revealed that US Secretary of State Haig had offered 'large quantities of anti-tank weapons, anti-aircraft missiles and some military advisers' at a meeting with a UNITA delegation in Washington last July. The paper disclosed that 'the North Americans at present have 14 military experts ►

▶ with UNITA in the south of Angola preparing estimates for supplying the agreed aid'.

The close involvement of the US in efforts to destabilise Angola was underlined in early December when UNITA leader Joseph Savimbi was warmly welcomed in Washington for talks with the Reagan administration. The highlight of his trip was a meeting with Mr Chester Crocker, Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, at which the US reportedly confirmed its intention of stepping up political and military aid to Savimbi's rightists.

US 'violates international law'

THE LEAGUE of Arab States has strongly denounced the US decision to extradite to Israel a Palestinian accused of involvement in resistance operations as 'a stark violation of international laws and practices, as well as sheer indifference to US-Arab relations'.

Ziyad Abu Eian, a 21-year-old Palestinian from the occupied West Bank town of Ramallah, was flown from the US to the Zionist state on 13th December, where he faces almost certain life imprisonment on charges of planting a bomb in the Galilee town of Tiberias in May 1979. In August of that year he was arrested in Chicago, at Israel's behest, while on a private visit. He has since been held in jail while fighting Israeli extradition proceedings through the courts.

Mr Abu Eian has repeatedly denied any involvement in the Tiberias bombing, and the Zionists have produced no convincing evidence to implicate him. His fight against extradition became a

cause célèbre in the US, attracting wide support from human rights groups and from the Arab diplomatic community in Washington.

Last October the Supreme Court ruled that he should be handed over to the Zionists under a 1963 treaty between the US and Israel, despite the treaty's prohibition of extradition for political 'crimes'. The Court's judgement could have been overruled by the State Department, but was not.

The Arab League statement, issued at the United Nations headquarters in New York on 16th December, described the State Department's failure to act as a 'dangerous precedent', which meant that the US 'implicitly condones the repressive and criminal measures which Israel carries out daily against the Palestinian Arab population in the occupied territories, measures that have been repeatedly condemned by the international community and the UN'.

Already there is evidence that Israel is maltreating Mr Abu Eian. On 14th December *The Guardian* quoted eyewitnesses at Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion airport as saying he was taken off the plane 'so quickly that he fell to his knees at the bottom of the steps'.

Reagan human rights record 'catastrophic'

THE COUNCIL on Hemispheric Affairs (CHA), a US human rights body backed by American churches, has accused the Reagan administration of responsibility for the sharp increase of repression and political murders in Central America last year. CHA's

annual report, issued at the end of December, says Reagan's indifference to human rights had 'sparked an alarming rise in violations across the entire region, and had a catastrophic effect on the lives of Latin Americans in 1981'.

CHA brands the governments of El Salvador and Guatemala as the worst human rights offenders in the western hemisphere last year, saying they had killed more than 21,000 political opponents. At least 12,000 civilians, and possibly as many as 17,000, were murdered in El Salvador by US-backed government forces and officially condoned rightist death squads, the report says. In Guatemala 9,000 people had died in a government campaign to wipe out political opposition. CHA says that only Ecuador, Panama and Belize improved their human rights records last year.

The Reagan administration is giving *carte blanche* to repressive military regimes to murder those who oppose their rule 'on the basis of so-called security considerations', the report continues. It adds: 'President Reagan suffers from a serious double standard in his policies, properly attacking human rights violations in Poland, as well as the lesser misdeeds in some Latin American Leftist states, while at the same time actively wooing Right-wing dictatorships guilty of massive crimes.'

President Reagan's disregard for the human rights of American citizens had earlier prompted the resignation of Mr Franklin Williams, Chairman of a US Civil Rights Commission advisory panel. 'This administration's lack of commitment to guaranteeing civil rights for all American citizens has been obvious for quite some while,' Mr Williams declared in his resignation statement on 18th December. He had been Chairman of the New York State advisory committee on human rights since 1969.

People's Bureau opens in Seoul

THE LIBYAN Jamahiriya has opened a People's Bureau in the South Korean capital Seoul, with Mr Ashur bin Khayal as the Secretary of its People's Committee. The new bureau was formally inaugurated on 26th November, and its establishment is the latest sign of the growing ties between Libya and South Korea. The two countries exchanged diplomatic missions at consular level in 1978, and on 29th December 1980 full diplomatic relations were established.

The closer diplomatic ties mirror the increasing participation of South Korean firms in the Jamahiriya's development programme. Their role is expected to increase still further following the conclusion of an economic and technical co-operation agreement between the two countries last August. Another recent sign of the growing links between Tripoli and Seoul was the inauguration by Korean Air Lines last September of a direct weekly service between the two capitals.

Since 1977 the Jamahiriya has been converting its traditional embassies into people's bureaux, as part of the Al Fateh Revolution's drive to establish direct people-to-people relations, without the interference of professional diplomats or other intermediaries. Each bureau is administered by a committee of ordinary Libyans, headed by a Secretary. Another advantage of the new-style diplomatic missions is that they allow much easier access by Libyans resident abroad to the Jamahiriya's overseas missions. In traditional embassies all decisions are taken by a single ambassador, who often seeks to enhance his status by deliberately distancing himself from ordinary citizens.

The American threat to Libya:

□ 'We admit there is a continuous threat from the Americans. This affects the morale and the spirit of the Libyan people. And if it continues, we expect very serious consequences. The Libyan people have a right to reject continuous provocations and threats. They are not prepared to live under terror imposed by America. We want to live happily.'

American threats to Qadhafi's life:

□ 'We just see that as part of the American terrorist policies; policies which are hostile to the people. I know that there are serious attempts by the Americans on this front, but they have no effect until they actually happen. And I don't think that the Americans can do anything, because although these things are true, the outcome will be disastrous for the Americans as well. I don't think that things would quieten down in Libya as a result, but get worse; and not only in Libya but throughout the Arab world, and this is foolish policy on the part of the Americans.'

Libyan relations with the US and Reagan:

□ 'I don't think that Reagan is against me. I always regard him as an actor, whereas I'm the leader of a Revolution. If it is to be a personal affair, I would look for an actor to confront him. This is a fact which American force is not going to change. Reagan will always 'Reagan the actor'. Even if America is the greatest power in the world, it cannot make any more out of him than Reagan the actor. And no matter what Libya's capabilities might be, it's certain that I'm not an actor.'

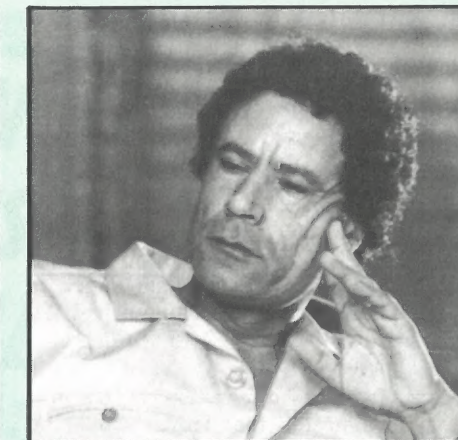
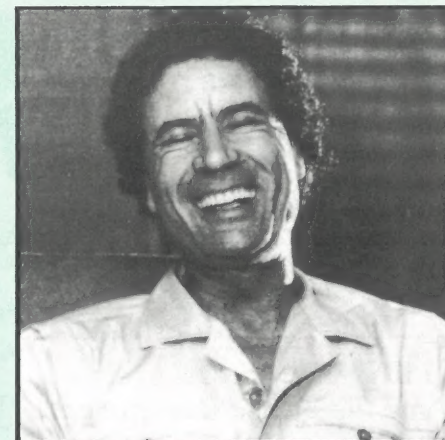
Libya's 'threat to western interests' in the Arab homeland and Africa:

□ 'This is just incredible propaganda. The size of Libya and its capabilities simply do not accord with such accusations. They are merely justifications for aggression against Libya prompted by the wealth of Libya and its strategic position, and also in order to prevent the Arab nation from uniting and making progress, particularly because Libya is a very influential member of the Arab world in the direction of progress and unity. It's no more than a justification of aggressive American policy towards the Arab nation.'

Libya's alleged support to exiles against their governments which are 'very often pro-western':

□ 'First of all anti-government movements cannot be accused of terrorism. We now witness popular opposition to a number of governments. These governments are loyal to the interests of colonialism and not to the interests of the people. This is legitimate opposition. Even Western countries have gone through such a phase. We support these people, and we support popular opposition. We are against colonialism. We're also against reactionary forces which are impeding our progress.'

'Certainly any government which is a puppet of the West, we will support its



Muammar Qadhafi talks to Thames Television

IN A rare attempt to provide Muammar Qadhafi with the opportunity to put his views to a western audience, Thames Television talked recently with the Libyan leader. Parts of that interview were included in the TV Eye programme on 10th December. Thames Television has kindly provided us with the full transcript of the discussion of which edited extracts are published here.

opponents. But it must be clearly understood we do not oppose such a government directly, but we support the opposition to it. Just as colonialism is supporting the governments which are loyal to it, so we support popular movements against such governments.'

Allegations of Libyan supplies of military equipment to opposition groups:

□ 'I speak politically and I support politically. This is a lie [that Libya gives military equipment and training]. It's America which gives arms to Numeiri [in the Sudan] to kill students and workers. It's America that bolsters the Egyptian regime with direct military might and terrorists the Egyptian, Sudanese, Somali and Omani people with military manoeuvres. It's the Americans who use mercenaries to carry out raids into the Seychelles, into Benin and Angola, and air strikes against the Gulf of Sirte, and their military alignment with Israel. In actual fact, it's America and the Western powers who give military support to their allies and practise terrorism against the peoples of these areas. They are the ones who should be asked such questions.'

'We have a political stance. We fight

against colonialism. This is a right and a duty. It is America which is invading the Arab homeland and distributing arms to its clients and supporting them militarily. It's America which should be condemned. In fact, we think we are not doing enough to defend ourselves. We have not directly engaged the American forces. America is invading us without us doing anything about it.'

Claims of Libyan support for the IRA, the Italian Red Brigades and training facilities provided:

□ 'It is just propaganda and allegations without any evidence. It is not true at all. But we train the Palestinians to fight, and that is our national duty. This is a just cause, and we're prepared to accept the full consequences. We have trained Zimbabwean forces. We train Angolan forces and Namibian forces. These are just causes. These are people who are fighting for freedom. This is public knowledge, we broadcast it every day.'

'We have no relation with these [European] groups at all, and we are absolutely against terrorism, and these terrorism groups in Europe.'

Future Libyan relations with the West:

□ 'There is a possibility to improve these relations. If Western Europe gets rid of the influence of America.'

Great leaders on whom Qadhafi models himself:

□ 'There's nobody that I consider as a model. I do not emulate other people. I am moved by human concepts which many great leaders have shared. What influences me is general consciousness of humanity, not individuals.'

The role of the Green Book in respect of universal application:

□ 'I consider it as a guide for the masses in their journey from exploitation to emancipation. I do not think that this generation is going to adopt it. It is a guide for tomorrow.'



Below left: Salvadorian troops play Washington's role against progressive forces. Right: The victims of a repressive regime backed by Reagan. See 'Reagan's Human Rights Record' item above.

THE GAP between the United States and its European allies on attitudes towards the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has seldom been more clearly demonstrated. Lord Trefgarne, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Foreign Office explicitly rejected suggestions made by an elderly Labour life peer, 73-year-old Lord Paget, in the House of Lords on 7th December. Lord Paget, the former MP Reginald Paget, is a staunch Zionist, and distinguished his political career in the House of Commons by his defence of Israel.

Lord Paget, who is a lawyer by profession, suggested that Libya 'should be disarmed' by means of a pre-emptive American strike on its defence installations, and that the country should then be handed over to Egypt to administer. Lord Paget also suggested that a western force should invade Lebanon, take over Palestinian camps, 'control them and keep them out of mischief', and then force Arab countries to 'resettle' the Palestinians. 'Of course,' he admitted, 'it would be called imperialist and colonialist. I do not think we should worry unduly about that.'

Lord Paget's eccentricities are not taken very seriously in political circles. Indeed, Liberal Lord Gladwyn responded by reminding Lord Paget, 'We are not living in the 17th century', while Labour's spokeswoman Baroness Llewelyn-Davies referred to his 'intemperate language' adding, 'We cannot agree with that kind of thinking or argument.' As a member of the House of Commons, he remained in obscurity on the back benches, and consequently over-reacted by making outrageous suggestions which attracted publicity. Eventually, he was given a life peerage in order to get him out of the way of Labour's business managers in the Commons, whom he annoyed intensely by frequently voting with the Conservatives.

Lord Paget was joined in his anti-Libyan ravings by Lord Salisbury, a hereditary peer whose family title was bestowed on a remote ancestor by the first Queen Elizabeth, and who often gives the impression that he wishes he were living in that era. Lord Salisbury thought that the Libyans might be responsible for the IRA, Welsh nationalism, the murder of a Bulgarian broadcaster, and the assassination attempts on the Pope and Presidents Reagan and Sadat. The Libyan People's Bureau in London might be a staging post for terrorists, he thought, but he wasn't sure, and asked if the government had any information on the topic.

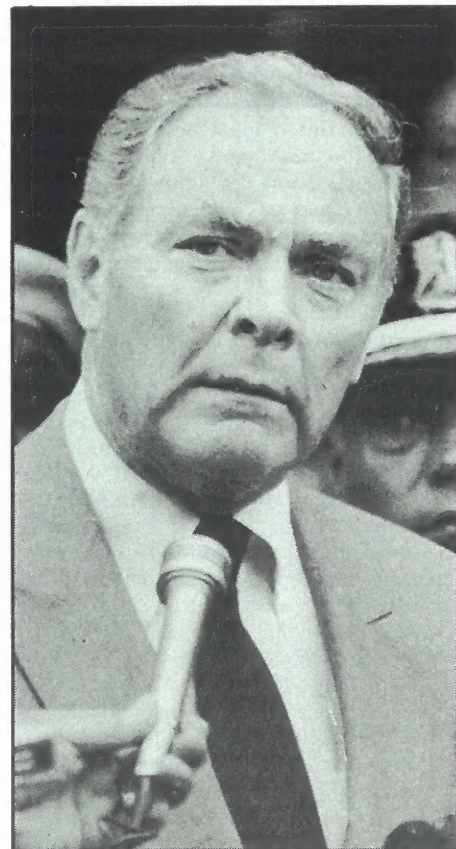
Into this affray, Foreign Office Minister Lord Trefgarne stepped like a school prefect stopping a fight among fourth formers. Though it must have been difficult for him not to laugh, he delivered a more serious and considered statement on relations between Britain and Libya than Lords Paget and Salisbury deserved.

The minister said that relationships between Britain and Libya had not always been smooth, but that in recent months,

Britain opposes aggression against Libya

LIBYA IS a sovereign state, and the British Government both respects her right to self-determination and rejects any suggestion that force might be used against her, Foreign Office minister Lord Trefgarne told Parliament in December. Phil Kelly analyses the official British attitude to the Jamahiriya.

'it is possible to point to a constructive dialogue with the Libyan Government which bodes well for the future.' Lord Trefgarne stressed that trade was the firm basis of the relationship between the two countries. 'We have long been a major trading partner of Libya. We take little Libyan oil, and the trading balance is therefore well in our favour. The Libyan



Alexander Haig: No support in Europe for plans against Libya.

market holds out major opportunities, and we know that the Libyans are keen that more British firms should tender for work in Libya,' the minister declared.

The recent visit of Libyan Heavy Industry Secretary Omar Muntassir, who had held talks with several ministries and firms in Britain, was an indication of this, the minister said.

No terrorism

Turning to allegations that Libya had been involved in international terrorism, which had been the subject of a BBC Television *Panorama* programme and had been taken up by Lord Paget in his speech, Lord Trefgarne made it clear that the British government had 'no reason to believe that members of the IRA, for example, are being trained in Libya; nor do we have any evidence to connect Libya with the murder of the late Lord Mountbatten, or with attacks on British politicians or British embassies. We know of no evidence to connect Libya with Welsh nationalists; nor with the death in London of the Bulgarian broadcaster.'

Referring to Lord Paget, Lord Trefgarne pointed out that 'his proposals were really aimed at the Americans. Although we do not agree with Libyan policies, we must accept that Libya is a sovereign state, and we respect her right to self-determination. We would naturally reject any suggestion that force might be used against Libya,' the Minister stressed.

Finally, just four days before Reagan 'ordered' Americans working in Libya to leave, the British Minister made a cogent appeal for the opposite approach: 'We do not believe that the way to make our views known would be to boycott or isolate Libya. We believe it to be more effective to encourage the Libyans to adopt more acceptable policies by maintaining a dialogue with the Libyan Government and trying to develop as near normal relations as possible.'

The British determination to continue a dialogue is shared by other western nations, which also have extensive trading links with the Libyan Jamahiriya. It is understandable that Lord Trefgarne should refer to the Libyan 'Government', because as yet, only Libya has moved beyond government to government contact in international affairs to direct popular links.

The British Government is also no doubt aware that any changes in Libyan policy will come from the People's Congresses, and not from British 'encouragement' of this or that policy of the Jamahiriya. But in contrast to the Americans' apparent delusion that the whole world should bow down and do their bidding, the British understanding that the world is composed of sovereign states with legal and moral rights is refreshing indeed. On that basis, it is easy to share Lord Trefgarne's concluding wish that 'we may look to an improvement in Anglo-Libyan relations in future with reasonable hope and confidence'.

FBI 'has no proof' of hit squads

From Our Correspondent New York Jan 4

There was never any proof that a Libyan hit squad had entered the United States to assassinate leading Americans, the director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation said yesterday. Mr William Webster, the director, said on ABC television that "we've never confirmed" the reports. But he added: "We certainly had enough information, and enough to require us to continue to require us to investigate."

REAGAN GUN PLOT IS A HOAX ADMITS FBI



Reagan... no trace of hit squads

THE FBI backed down yesterday — and said reports of a Libyan death plot against President Reagan were almost certainly a hoax. For several months, the FBI has scoured America for two Libyan "hit squads," said to have been

Reagan exposed: The Times (left) and The Sun (right) inform their readers that no Libyan hit team existed.

Lies, damned lies, and Reagan's allegations

THE LATEST battle in the rhetorical winter war between the United States and Libya lasted less than a fortnight, and it is not at all clear that the United States emerged the happier. On the contrary the main beneficiary of the exchange seemed to be Colonel Muammar Qadhafi, who came out of it with plenty of free — and mostly favourable — publicity,' said the London *Economist* on 19th December.

Even by the standards of relations between the United States and the Libyan Jamahiriya, the episode of the assassination squad — 'hit-team' — allegedly despatched by Libyan revolutionary leader Muammar Qadhafi to murder US President Ronald Reagan was bizarre. It is now officially admitted by the Americans that the hit squad never existed. Since mid-December, the air in Washington has been thick with the noise of official backtracking.

By January, the admission was quite categorical. The Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, America's internal security agency, William Webster, said that the FBI had 'never confirmed' the reports. He added: 'We certainly had enough information, and continue to receive information, to require us to take appropriate investigative steps, and we will continue to do that.' The *Times* reported on 5th January.

In other words, there was no hit squad; there were simply claims that there was a hit squad. All of which prompts questions about the nature of the information which led to the claims, and a separate but related set of questions about the motives of those officials, from President Reagan downwards, who sought to spread the idea of the hit squad in the media.

The information

The earliest mention of the Libyan 'hit squad' was by ABC Television, which

THERE NEVER was a 'Libyan hit-team' trying to murder President Reagan, the US has now officially admitted. The credibility of the Reagan administration among its allies has suffered a severe setback, but America still intends the overthrow of the Libyan revolution. Phil Kelly analyses the hit-team scare.

claimed on 26th November that the alleged assassination squad had crossed the Canadian border into the United States, and was planning to murder the President, either by shooting him or by bringing down Reagan's official plane, Air Force One, while he was aboard, using a ground-to-air missile. The story appeared in most US newspapers the following day — though the Washington correspondent of the London *Standard*, Jeremy Campbell, managed to get the report into his paper almost before ABC had broadcast it.

The motive for the despatch of the assassins, American media alleged, was a desire for revenge on the part of Libyan revolutionary leader Muammar Qadhafi following the clash between Libyan jets and US warplanes from the carrier *Nimitz* in the Libyan air space above the Gulf of Sirte on 17th August. This 'motive' was the one aired as justification for the previous 'hit squad' rumour, originated by NBC Television in October.

It was the *New York Times*, on 4th December, which alleged that the information had come from one informant, said to be Lebanese. This man, the paper

said, had described in detail five members of a hit team, who had already entered the country. British newspapers, which had not until then covered the story, took it up at this point, largely prompted by President Reagan's own first public comment on the matter. The substance of their reports was culled entirely from US press and television, who in turn cited 'FBI officials' as the source of their information.

This story, columnist Jack Anderson claimed had also been given to him by sources in America's super-secret electronic spying agency, the National Security Agency. NSA specialises in eavesdropping on electronically broadcast media, and claimed to have overheard the Libyan leader threaten President Reagan's life in a telephone conversation with Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam.

At this point, it became abundantly clear that it was the State Department which was responsible for keeping the affair in the public eye. 'State Department spokeswoman Sue Pittman confirmed that officials "now have hard strong evidence that Qadhafi has been plotting the murder of American officials both here and overseas"', the *New York Post* reported on 7th December, following a televised interview with Muammar Qadhafi in which he refuted the US claims. The State Department confirmation was made in the face of growing scepticism on the part of some reporters about the reliability of the information.

The media were given yet another opportunity to repeat the allegations when Ronald Reagan himself responded to Muammar Qadhafi's denials. 'We have the evidence, and he knows it,' he said on 7th December. But refusal to present any of the evidence fed the growing belief that the whole affair had been fabricated. This annoyed administration officials greatly. ▶

► 'We are not engaged in some public relations exercise. It's specious to suggest that. We are not trying to blow up this whole story. This matter is serious,' White House chief press spokesman David Gergen was quoted as saying by the *New York Times* on 9th December. 'Mr Gergen seemed irked at the scepticism in some of the questions and in some newspaper articles,' the paper reported. In the same story, reporter Bernard Gwertzman juxtaposed two paragraphs to make it abundantly clear that the official denial was not to be trusted. 'There is no orchestrated effort by this administration to orchestrate these leaks. The White House has made very clear to the heads of the various departments and agencies that the President personally condemns the leaks,' Gwertzman quoted Gergen as saying. Gwertzman continued: 'State Department officials say Mr Reagan is discussing an economic boycott of Libya and bringing home the 1,500 Americans working in Libya,' so identifying the source of the major leakage with pinpoint accuracy.

Unspecified 'US security chiefs' were quoted by the *Daily Mirror's* Washington correspondent, Paul Connew, on 9th December as 'certain that the world's most feared terrorist, Carlos the Jackal, is leading the Libyan hit squad believed to be stalking President Reagan.'

A further Anderson intervention came the following day, when he showed official drawings of six members of the 'hit team' on ABC television. The same day, Deputy Secretary of State William Clark — now Reagan's National Security Advisor — announced that US passports were no longer valid for travel to Libya, and that US firms were being told to bring their people back.

At this point, the 'information' on which the US administration was basing its claims passed from being merely doubtful to being completely unbelievable. First, the *Los Angeles Times* disclosed on 15th December that the 'Carlos connection' had been fabricated by Israeli intelligence. The newspaper said that Israel's motives were 'not clear', but quoted 'an informed source' as saying that 'Israel wanted an excuse to go in and bash Libya for a long time'.

'One source identified the Israelis as the distributor of the Carlos story,' the paper said, adding: 'Israeli information, particularly on the alleged role of Carlos in the plot, was part of what one high official called "the hype" given the story in the US media.'

Then the rest of the information fell apart. In the list of names disclosed by Jack Anderson, two alleged hit squad members turned out to be prominent members of the Amal group, the Lebanese organisation of Shi'ite Moslems. The leadership of this group still seeks to blame Libya for the disappearance in Italy three years ago of their leader, the Imam Mussa Sadr. As the allegations of the assassination squad were issuing from Washington, three Amal supporters

hijacked a Libyan jet and forced it to fly to various countries around the Mediterranean to draw attention to their allegations against Libya, which are generally regarded as extremely flimsy. The informant himself, it was disclosed by Claudia Wright in the London *New Statesman* on 18th December, was also a member of the Amal group. So the principal source of such 'information' as the Reagan administration possessed was exposed as someone bearing a powerful grudge against Libya.

The 'information' on which the Reagan administration, and particularly the State Department, claimed to be basing their actions, was discredited. The initial official response was to play down the importance of the information. 'I can tell you that our information on this entire matter has come from not one, but several widespread sources,' Reagan told reporters on 17th December.

Fortunately for the Americans, world events intervened to distract the attention of the by-now totally incredulous press. On 13th December, the Polish government of General Jaruzelski declared martial law; on 14th December, the Zionists announced that they were 'annexing' the Syrian Golan Heights, occupied since 1967. 'The two events eclipsed earlier prime foreign policy concerns. The purported assassination threats to Mr Reagan from Col Muammer Qadhafi of Libya, and Washington's warnings that the Soviet Union and Cuba have been intervening with Nicaraguan help in guerrilla warfare in El Salvador were temporarily swept aside,' commented Bernard Gwertzman in the *International Herald Tribune* on 21st December.

And eclipsed they remained. With the world's attention focussed on Poland and the occupied Golan, the Libyan 'hit team' was forgotten. Newspapers which had splashed the news on their front pages, from *The Times* to the *Daily Mirror*, either quietly buried the FBI's January recantation, or ignored it completely.

US motives

During the US war in Vietnam, a spectacular victory for Vietnamese forces at the town of Pleiku was used by the Johnson administration to justify escalation of the US war effort. Defence Secretary Robert McNamara commented that 'Pleikus are like street cars. If you wait long enough, one comes along.' Eventually, there will always be a pretext to carry out policies which were intended all along. That is the role which the 'hit squad' fiasco has played over the past few weeks.

The United States is involved in a long-term plan to destabilise Libya, to overthrow the revolutionary authorities and replace them with a pro-western regime, and if necessary to murder Muammer Qadhafi in the process. That has been generally acknowledged since April 1981, when details of the plan were disclosed in the London *New Statesman*.

On 30th November, *Newsweek* indicated

the role which recent events were intended to play. 'The Administration's plan is a long-term strategy of progressively tougher measures designed to sap Qadhafi's influence... The first step would be the evacuation of about 2,000 American oil workers in Libya, vulnerable hostages in the case of American attack... The Administration has been urging the oil companies for six months to withdraw their people. So far only Exxon has reacted... The pressure on the hold-out companies is bound to increase,' *Newsweek* predicted.

The 'hit team' scare was the necessary pressure. On 10th December, Reagan again asked Americans working in Libya to return home. This request was without legal force, but the Administration made it clear that if it were not complied with, it would make US passports invalid for travel to the Libyan Jamahiriya.

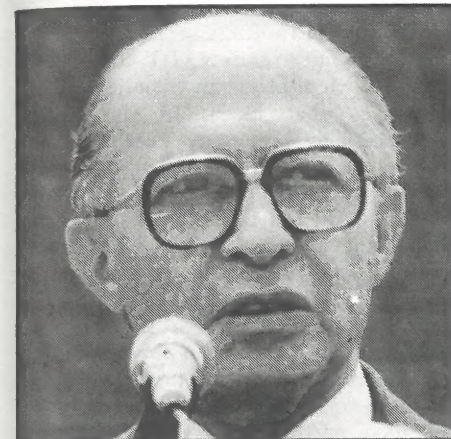
Secretary of State Haig made it clear that the US intends to attack Libya, either directly or through a surrogate, when he spoke in Brussels at the end of the NATO ministerial meeting on 11th December. The withdrawal was necessary, he said 'to protect American lives should the situation deteriorate further'. An official explained that he was referring to 'the danger they would face if hostilities broke out between Libya and another country,' the *Irish Times* reported on 12th December.

The decks are now clear for US military action without harming US citizens. But the other major intention behind the US escalation of the hit-team scare, to involve sceptical European countries in the campaign against Libya, has so far flopped completely.

'Amid strong indications that the US may be contemplating an embargo on imports of oil or other trade and diplomatic measures against Libya, President Reagan said yesterday that any such boycott "would have to be world-wide" to work,' *The Guardian* reported from Washington as long ago as 19th October. The 'hit-term' allegations began to flow just as British Foreign Office minister Douglas Hurd arrived in Washington for talks on the Middle East, concerning British participation in the Sinai force, and also what the State Department called 'the Qadhafi problem'.

The British Government has opposed any use of armed force against Libya by anyone. 'West German and French officials at the Brussels meeting warned that it would be a mistake to isolate Libya and risk pushing Colonel Qadhafi into closer ties with Moscow, according to NATO sources,' the *Irish Times* said.

The credibility of the Reagan administration has worn extremely thin, among Americans and among its NATO allies, as a result of this affair. A very high price has been paid in order to take one small step towards America's goal of ending the revolution in Libya. More drastic action will cost the Americans even more, and its more sober officials must be aware of that.



Beigin: The real terrorist

AS AN eight-day general strike paralysed the Gaza Strip region of occupied Palestine in December, angry demonstrators took to the streets to challenge the occupation forces. The Zionists responded with their usual ferocity, and managed to quell the mass uprising. But as the region slowly returned to 'normal', the Palestinians of the occupied West Bank began a series of protests in solidarity with their brethren in Gaza.

The mass protests in Gaza came in the wake of a similar eruption on the West Bank in November, prompted by the imposition there at the beginning of the month of a sham 'civilian' administration headed by Colonel Menachem Milson. A key factor behind the Gaza protests was the appointment on 1st December of another 'civilian' to rule this part of occupied Palestine. He was, in fact, the existing military governor, Brig-Gen Yosef Lunz. The Israelis nevertheless claim that the military governments that have ruled the West Bank and Gaza Strip for the past fourteen years have now been abolished.

The US-sponsored Camp David accords provide for the replacement of the Israeli military governments in the 1967 occupied territories by an 'autonomous' council of local Palestinians, that would have no real power. Its every action would be subject to a veto by the Zionists, and it would in any case have responsibility only for such matters as refuse collection and health services. The Palestinians have from the start rejected Camp David as a clear attempt to deny them their internationally recognised rights to self-determination in a state of their own in Palestine. They correctly saw the imposition of Israeli 'civilian' governors as paving the way for the 'autonomous' council, which the Zionists doubtless hope to set up after they complete their evacuation of Sinai next April. Had they not moved to create the semblance of progress on the question of Palestinian 'autonomy', it would have been impossible after April to sustain the fiction that there was any life left in Camp David.

There was another reason for the mass protests in the Gaza Strip. The Zionists had earlier attempted to impose value added tax on local doctors and pharma-



Zionist troops patrol and intimidate.

Palestinian uprising rejects sham 'civilian rule'

PALESTINIANS IN the Israeli occupied Gaza Strip have staged their most united show of opposition to Zionist rule since the region was seized in 1967. Alan George reviews December's mass protests, prompted by Israel's imposition of a bogus 'civilian' regime.

cists — in clear violation of the Geneva Conventions, which forbid the imposition of new taxes by an occupying power. The Palestinians objected strongly to paying taxes to the Israelis at all, and were further angered by the tax inspectors' exaggerated estimates of taxable income.

The doctors and pharmacists started a strike on 26th November in protest at the Israeli move, and on 2nd December, the day after Brig-Gen Lunz took up his post as 'civilian' governor, the Gaza municipality declared a two-day strike in support of the doctors and pharmacists. The action swiftly escalated into a full-scale general strike throughout the Gaza Strip in protest at the continuing Zionist occupation. At the same time, Palestinians took to the streets in angry demonstrations.

The occupation forces responded with their usual ferocity. Tear gas, batons and bullets were used to break up demonstrations, and hundreds of protestors were arrested. Shopkeepers who defied Israeli orders to open their premises had the shutters of their stores welded by Zionist troops. Curfews were imposed — another violation of the Geneva Conventions, which outlaw collective punishments.

The worst single act of repression came in the southern Gaza town of Rafah on 7th December, when Israeli troops opened fire on unarmed demonstrators, killing

one and injuring three. About 500 protestors were seized and detained in the military government's compound in Rafah. While soldiers were attacking the demonstrators, other Zionist troops were attempting to break the commercial strike in the town. Christopher Walker reported in *The Times* on 8th December, 'As soldiers with automatic rifles stood guard, any shopholder who did not immediately open the iron shutters on his premises had them welded shut by a soldier.'

The mass protest action reached a new pitch on 9th December, following the funeral of the youth killed in Rafah. Frustrated and embarrassed at the Palestinians' refusal to acquiesce in the establishment of the 'civilian' regime, Brig-Gen Lunz closed the Gaza Strip to all journalists. A number of Israeli reporters managed to penetrate the region, however, by posing as Zionist settlers. On 10th December *The Times* reported that the Israeli daily *Jerusalem Post* had 'carried a photograph of Israeli soldiers patrolling as smoke from blazing barricades billowed over one of the area's many squalid refugee camps'.

It was only after Israel had drafted in hundreds of extra troops, and agreed to defer for one month any attempt to collect value added tax, pending a Zionist High Court ruling on the matter, that the wave of protests in Gaza began to subside. But by them, strikes and demonstrations had started in the occupied West Bank, in solidarity with the people of Gaza.

At the end of the Gaza Strip protests, Mr Faez Abu Rahman, a leading Palestinian lawyer in the occupied region, summed up succinctly the Palestinians' objections to the introduction of Israeli 'civilian' rule. On 11th December *The Guardian* quoted him as saying it was a shameful gimmick. 'The military courts will continue to operate, our freedom of assembly and speech will still be restricted,' he said, adding: 'To play with words will not solve the problem. What the Palestinians want is self determination.'



Britain: Voice of protest against US nuclear weapons.

'No greater crime than the invention and use of the atom bomb'

NUCLEAR WEAPONS, and their deployment in Europe by the United States, pose one of the most serious issues of modern times. This is a view which is shared by both the nuclear disarmament movements in Europe and, contrary to American assertions, the Libyan Jamahiriya. With the East-West confrontation set firmly in a European arena, Libyan policies have been influenced by the implications which this has for neutrality in the Mediterranean region, and her own security.

In 1969 at the time of the Al Fateh Revolution, Libyan territory provided military bases for the United States and Britain. Although not formally a part of NATO, Libya provided a NATO capability for the Americans. With the new revolutionary regime led by Muammar Qadhafi committed to 'positive non-alignment' between East and West, especially the two super powers, one of the earliest actions of the new administration was to force the evacuation of foreign military bases from Libyan territory. Moreover, in the years since the Revolution, Libya has become a neutral zone, with all foreign military bases removed from countries in the area, and all foreign military fleets barred from using Mediterranean waters. If implemented such neutrality would affect both the United States and the USSR. American bases in Greece, Turkey, Italy and Spain, along with Egypt, would go, while the USSR would be handicapped by restrictions on fleet movements out of Black Sea bases.

Despite escalating military threats

TENS OF thousands of Europeans have marched in protest against the United States nuclear armaments policy during recent months. With the Libyan Jamahiriya now a target of US military threats, and noting Libya's proximity to Europe, Louis Eaks and Neil Catford examine Libya's stand on nuclear weapons.

against Libya from the United States, the Libyan Jamahiriya has remained loyal to its principle concerning foreign military bases on its territory. Against all predictions, Libya has consistently avoided inviting the Soviet Union to establish a military presence in the country.

Libya's 'positive non-alignment' is a central feature of the Revolution's Third Universal Theory, which promotes an alternative way to capitalism and communism. No super power has the right to establish military bases on foreign territory, and military alliances which facilitate deployment of either conventional and nuclear weapons should be disbanded.

Libya and the European disarmament movement share the view that the American strategy is to ensure that nuclear confrontation with the Soviets will be

fought not over US territory, but over the European landmass. Sharing with many European and NATO countries a common Mediterranean frontier, Libya recognises that its future is directly threatened by American military policy in Europe.

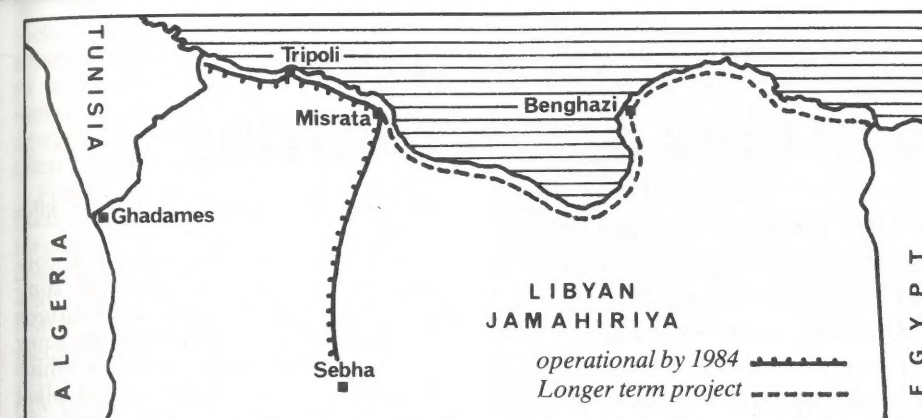
The positive non-alignment policy advocated by the Libyan Jamahiriya has placed the country's revolution in the forefront of American interventionist policies urged by the Reagan administration. In a bid to discredit Libya and her revolutionary leader Muammar Qadhafi, the Americans have attempted to divert attention from their own nuclear strategy, and have portrayed Libya as a potential nuclear menace. Yet Libya's stand against nuclear weapons has been stated quite clearly in a series of statements by Qadhafi, who points out that America's nuclear capability is being exploited by Washington as a form of terrorism against small non-nuclear countries. Libya's nuclear desires remain only those in which nuclear power can be harnessed for peaceful uses in the interests of mankind.

In a recent lengthy interview with the German magazine *Der Spiegel*, Qadhafi said he was against 'the manufacture of nuclear weapons anywhere in the world'. He added, 'Human beings have committed no greater crime than the invention and use of the atom bomb.'

Libya's attitude toward disarmament and neutrality was clearly expressed in the Tripoli Declaration, and approved by the World Conference in Solidarity with the People of the Jamahiriya in September 1980. The Declaration expressed support for disarmament efforts 'to stop the arms race and to prohibit the use of nuclear weapons and weapons of total destruction'. It demanded all governments 'honour their obligations under the International Nuclear Weapons Non-Proliferation Agreement', a treaty Libya signed in 1975. Libya agreed then to accept IAEA rules intended to ensure nuclear materials are not used for military purposes.

The Declaration noted with concern the nuclear threat posed by the governments of Israel and South Africa and called for an end to technological assistance given to the racist regimes that allows them to develop nuclear weapons of destruction. In the same *Der Spiegel* interview, Qadhafi drew attention to the fact that Israel was not a signatory to the IAEA treaty. 'I am totally convinced that Israel has an atom bomb,' he said. 'The Israelis have never let either the International Atomic Energy Agency, or anyone else, carry out an inspection' of their nuclear installation at Dimona.

Qadhafi warned of the danger the whole of Europe faced by the presence of US bases on European soil. 'As there are US bases in western Europe, most Europeans are in greater danger than ever before of becoming victims of the super-powers,' he said.



THE LIBYAN Jamahiriya has invited British Rail's consulting subsidiary, Transmark, to tender for the design of a 1,300 kilometre railway running along the coast from Misrata eastwards to the Egyptian frontier. Mr Ken Smith, the firm's managing director, disclosed in December. Transmark is already active in Libya's rail development programme. It is currently working on a \$500,000 tender evaluation award for a new line linking Tajoura and Tripoli with Ras Jadir on the Tunisian frontier. But the Misrata-Egypt contract could be worth as much as \$40 million, and would signal a major increase in the British firm's participation in Libya's ambitious programme to establish a country-wide railway network.

Libya's first railways were built along the coast by the rival armies during the Second World War, but construction was hasty. The aim was to meet only immediate military needs, and the country's long-term development requirements were ignored. By the early 1950s the lines had fallen into disrepair and become unusable. For many years, Libya's production of the types of high bulk/volume ratio commodities that are ideally suited to rail transport was minimal and the rapidly expanding road system served the economy adequately. Now that the Jamahiriya is entering the heavy industrial age the need has arisen for more specialised modes of transport.

The Misrata-Egypt railway is one of the Jamahiriya's longer-term projects. The initial aim is to establish by 1984 three new lines in the west, totalling 1,300 kilometres in length. While all Libya's new railways will carry passenger traffic, their primary role will be the transport of bulk goods. The 170 kilometre Tajoura-Ras Jadir line, with which Transmark is involved, will be the first to be built. The standard gauge line was designed by the Hungarian firm Tesco/Uvater. and last November it was announced that the firm had been awarded the \$10 million construction supervision contract. Transmark is now completing evaluation of five tenders submitted for the main construction contract, valued at about \$500 million, and this should be awarded soon. The line will run along the coast to the southern edge of Tripoli, where a site has been designated for the main railway station. The station complex which will include a

Libya enters the railway era

LIBYA IS to establish a country-wide railway system to meet the needs of its growing heavy industrial sector. The new system could also provide the final link in a network stretching from Cairo to Morocco. With a number of British companies involved, Alan George reviews the Jamahiriya's plans, and assesses their regional implications.

luxury hotel, offices and a mosque, has been designed by Britain's Mott Hay & Anderson (MHA), and companies were recently invited to prequalify for construction. From the station, the line will continue 15 kilometres east, to the port and on to a point just west of Tajoura. Tajoura is a growing industrial centre, with plants for the assembly of trucks, bases and agricultural tractors.

The second link in the Jamahiriya's emergent rail network will be a 200 kilometre standard gauge line between Tajoura and Misrata. The high-speed line, which will have nine stations and three



Transmark's Mr Ken Smith

freightyards, has been designed by Libya's National Consulting Bureau in association with MHA, and the designs are currently being evaluated by Tesco/Uvater. Prequalification has already been invited from civil engineering companies and firms specialising in signalling and telecommunications. It is estimated that the entire scheme, including the construction of signal boxes, workshops and a comprehensive telecommunications system, and the costs of any necessary land purchases, could cost as much as \$1 billion. Construction tenders are expected to be invited soon.

The third, and longest, line to be built by 1984, is intimately linked with the country's first integrated steelworks, currently being built at Misrata. The steel plant will initially use imported iron ore, but will later turn to the Jamahiriya's own extensive reserves in the Wadi Shatti area near Sebha in the south. These were confirmed by a recent discovery at 1 billion tonnes. About five million tonnes of ore per annum will be carried north to Misrata on a 922 kilometre standard gauge railway from Sebha, via Brak. Designs for the line have been completed by Yugoslavia's Projekt-Inzenjering, and companies pre-qualified for construction in early 1980. The Yugoslavian consultants have also prepared designs for the Misrata railway station.

Like other Third World countries, Libya suffers shortages of skilled manpower, and since the Jamahiriya is building its railway network from scratch, expertise in the field of railway operations is particularly scarce. Already, however, before construction has even started on the new lines, the Jamahiriya has taken steps to assure an adequate labour force to man its new railways. In 1979 Rail India Technical & Economic Services was reported to have won a \$6.7 million contract to train 120 Libyan railway workers in India. Several companies are currently bidding for a seven-year contract to train another 70 Libyans. Other major contracts to be awarded include the design and construction of a training school in Tripoli and the establishment of a complete management operation for the entire rail system. This emphasis on training strongly reflects the 1981-85 Libyan development plan's call for renewed emphasis on the acquisition of skills by citizens.

The Libyan railway system will be of more than local significance. It will fill a major gap in the Arab homeland's communications network. Already it is possible to travel by rail direct from southern Tunisia to Morocco, along the Mediterranean coast. Egypt has a long-established and comprehensive railway system, including a line from Cairo to the Libyan frontier via Alexandria. The completion of the Jamahiriya's coastal lines will allow the first ever direct rail services between Egypt and the Atlantic coast. The new lines will give a major boost to the north African regional economy, and Arab economic unity will be brought a step closer.

Marsa Brega University: a landmark in new opportunities

THE CAMPUS of Marsa Brega University seems at first sight very different from the dreaming spires or solid Victorian gothic of British universities. The campus itself is on a rather isolated site in the area of the Marsa Brega petrochemicals complex, between the main Tripoli-Benghazi highway and the sea. The rose-coloured hues of the concrete walls frame glimpses of fountains and greenery, and the courtyards and walkways evince the influences of the traditional architecture of public buildings in the Middle East and the cloisters of European academic institutions.

The effect is to mark the Technical University of Marsa Brega as a seat of learning by its design alone. But the education to which Libya's third university is dedicated is not narrowly academic. Students who attend Marsa Brega will be in the forefront of Libya's drive to acquire self-sufficiency in all the skills involved in running a modern economy.

The role which science and technology education play in the furthering of the aims of the Al Fateh 1st September Revolution was stressed in a speech to graduating students at Tripoli's Al Fateh University in March by Libyan revolutionary leader Muammer Qadhafi. 'This is a battle of knowledge and science, to be fought by students and graduates, and it is no less important than other battles to build the new society. The traditional curriculum that we inherited will disappear and will be replaced by a technical, revolutionary one,' the Libyan leader declared.

The siting of a Technical University at Marsa Brega is part of the Jamahiriya's policy of developing industry at strategic sites along the coast. Marsa Brega is already the site of an oil terminal and is to be the Jamahiriya's centre for methanol urea-based fertiliser and ammonia production. An ammonia plant of 2,000 tonnes daily capacity is already in operation, as is a 100 tonnes/day methanol

THE FORMAL opening of the Jamahiriya's third university at Marsa Brega on the Mediterranean on 25th November indicates the emphasis which technical education now has in Libya. Phil Kelly reviews the direction of education in the Jamahiriya.

plant. Housing development will produce a new town intended to accommodate 45,000 people by the end of 1985. The Technical University is in the heart of what is to become one of the main industrial centres of Libya. Education in the Jamahiriya is not merely for the benefit of the individual, but is a vital tool in creating a modern industrial nation where the people themselves control their lives. Science and technology are a means for achieving national self-sufficiency.

Technical University

The Technical University at Marsa Brega will centralise various technical facilities now at other institutions. The Faculty of Mining and Petroleum which is at present part of the Al Fateh University in Tripoli will move to the new campus, as will some departments of the Higher Technical Institutes. Although formally opened by Muammer Qadhafi in November, it has as yet only about 250 students. As the various departments begin functioning, it will grow over the next two years to its planned student population of 1,700.

Fully equipped laboratories and seven lecture theatres are the principal features of the new campus, which has 1,000 rooms. The main building took three years to construct, and has a floor area of 62,000 sq metres. It stands in a land-

scaped site four kilometres by 2.5 kilometres.

The building was the work of a consortium of two Swiss construction companies, Preiswerk of Basle and Frutigen of Thun. Total cost will amount to some 33 million Libyan dinars (LD), of which LD2 million will go on the central plant for air conditioning and power, and one million dinars on furniture and laboratory equipment.

Over 14,000 students were enrolled in Libya's universities for the 1978-79 academic year, and that figure has now been left far behind. The opening of Marsa Brega Technical University exemplifies the stress on scientific and technological education at the most advanced levels which is reflected elsewhere in the education system. A senior official indicated that the new institution would not be producing graduates solely qualified in the theoretical aspects of science; they would be able to work with their hands, and apply their knowledge practically.

Higher Institutes

This blend of the practical and theoretical is already a feature of the three Higher Technical Institutes of the Jamahiriya, located at Brak, Houn and Bani Walid. The Institute at Brak offers courses in environmental technology, food technology and medical laboratory technology. After successfully completing the three year course, students are awarded the degree of Bachelor of Technology.

The courses are designed to produce qualified personnel who will serve as a link between middle-level technical staff and scientific specialists. Examples of the fields in which environmental technology graduates would be able to function

Well stocked libraries and modern equipment for Libya's universities.



include the creation of health education programmes; soil analysis programmes to guide land reclamation and development; the management and running of sewage disposal schemes, and a general contribution to urban planning.

Food technology graduates will make their contribution in Libya's factory inspectorate, checking standards in food processing plants, and assisting in the elaboration of those standards to suit Libyan requirements. The management of such factories, including responsibility for supervision of all the processes between raw food and the finished product, is also an area in which Brak graduates will be found. The determination of the Jamahiriya to become self-sufficient in food means that such graduates will make a vital contribution to the national effort. Equally, medical laboratory technology graduates will staff pathological laboratories in hospitals, and the development of the laboratory service.

Students from the Higher Technical Institutes will be expected both to work on their own account, and to use their skills in the supervision, guidance, and education of others in their specialised field. The essential contribution of such middle-level scientifically-trained personnel is generally recognised in all developing countries, where it is vital that skills be placed as directly as possible at the service of ordinary people.

The Higher Technological Institutes were founded in 1976, and two years later had a student enrolment of 7,500. Clearly they have already made a significant contribution to the Libyan education system. While they specialise in applied technology, research in the relevant fields is also conducted at the Institutes.

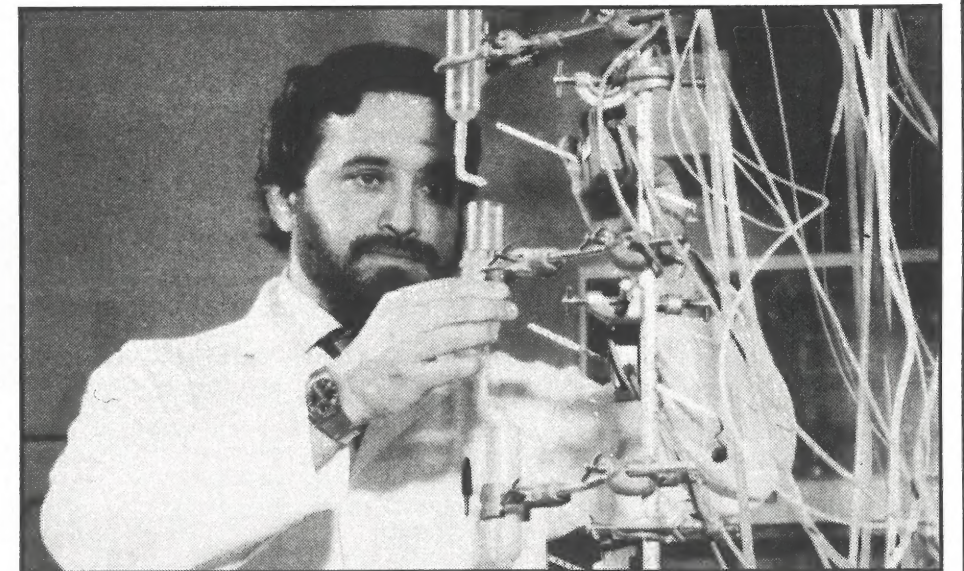
Teacher education

Teacher training in Libya is also developing rapidly. It is now no longer necessary — as was once the case a few years ago — for teachers to go abroad for their education. Formerly, such teacher education as was available in Libya concentrated on a short, two year course which commenced at the end of the intermediate stage of school education — at that age, that is, of 15 or 16. Graduates of this course were able to teach only in primary or intermediate schools.

Now there is a shift to a longer teacher training course, of four or five years, beginning at the same age. In 1978, of 28,000 trainee teachers, only 5,500 were on the short course; over two-thirds of them were women.

Primary education

The basis for all advance in education is laid in the primary and intermediate schools. On a recent visit to the city of Sebha, in the Saharan Fezzan region of Libya, I saw a school typical of hundreds which have opened in the Jamahiriya in recent years. The 500-pupil boys' school serves in the Al Jadid district of the city, and takes all boys between the ages of six



Technical education is recognised as the key to Libyanisation of the economy and industry.

and 15, covering the first two stages of education. The thirty-five staff are all Libyans, though most of them received at least part of their education abroad — which, nowadays, would not be necessary.

The school is well-equipped by Third World standards. There are sports facilities, laboratories, a woodworking room and even an internal broadcasting system. In a general science laboratory, there were the materials for the teacher to demonstrate elementary experiments in chemistry and physics, and teaching aids to illustrate the life cycles of plants, insects and animals. In the classroom, thirty boys aged about thirteen listened attentively to a lecture on bacteria.

The headmaster, Mr Ibrahim Abdullah, said that the education authorities in Tripoli were conscious of the role that education played in the future of a town like Sebha, many of whose people were until recently, nomads. They have now been rehoused in modern apartments, but education is the vital key which will equip the younger generation with the skills necessary to run a modern industrial economy.

'After the Revolution, we are trying to create a new Libyan man, a new human being for the future,' he said. Students follow a national curriculum in the major subjects, such as Arabic, science, mathematics and so on; the school also offers optional subjects. For boys, these are likely to be basic agricultural and horticultural techniques; girls' schools offer home economics.

Exams are termly, and are rather formal affairs. It is not clear, however, that they have anything like as much influence on educational careers of the students as 'O' and 'A' levels. In Libya, education is available to all those who can benefit from it.

The position of girls in education has changed out of all recognition because of the advances of the 1st September Revolution. In 1978, 6,700 of the 28,000 students in full time secondary education

were women, and the proportion has certainly increased over the past three years. In 1968, there were only 7,000 students in secondary education, and a mere 900 were women.

The Girls' Secondary School in Sebha is a particular indication of the seriousness with which Libya views the education of women. It is under military command, but students follow a course which has five parts normal educational subjects to two parts military training. The school commandant, Captain Mohammed Mahmoud El Da'in, said that the military training which the young women students received was an execution of the exhortation of Muammer Qadhafi that the separate standing army should disappear, and be replaced by the 'armed people'.

Students specialise in the military part of the curriculum in military communications, or 'signals'. During my visit, they were being instructed in the use of radio sets mounted on jeeps, being shown how to tune the sets, give and take instructions using military code words, and becoming familiar with modern military communications technology.

For these topics, instructors were members of the Libyan Army, men and women officers and NCOs. The students were also learning the assembly and dismantling of the Libyan Army rifle, the AK-47 Kalashnikov. Despite the evident seriousness of the young women about the tasks in hand, the atmosphere of the school was relaxed rather than authoritarian. As the students assembled for the final parade of the day, it was noticeable that many had softened the military olive green fatigue uniforms with brightly coloured scarves and gold jewellery.

700,000 pupils were enrolled in education up to the age of 18 for the 1981-82 academic year. Adding those in teacher training, technical and university education brings the total to well over 900,000. So about a third of Libya's population is in full time education. More than any machinery, factory or imported plant, this is Libya's investment in its future.

New bid to cut foreign food imports

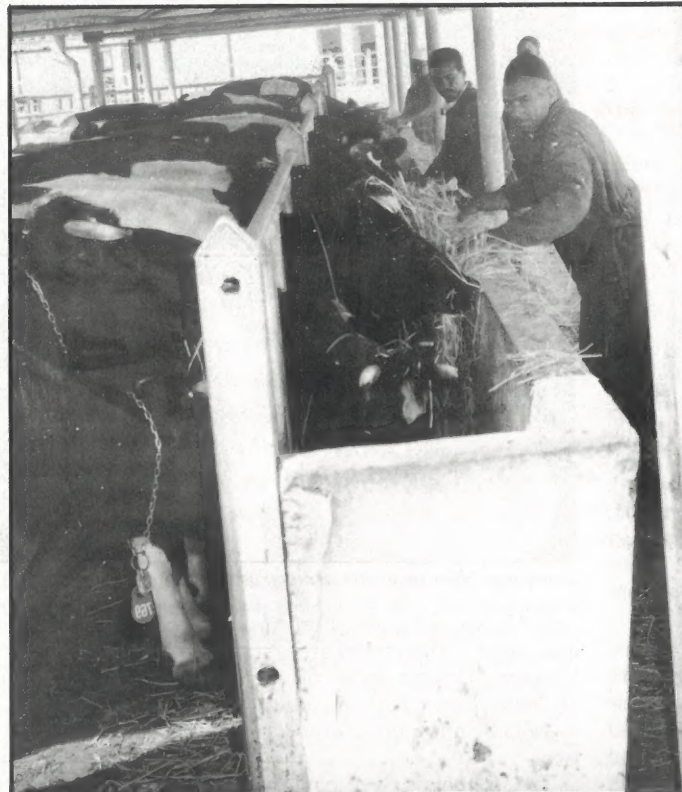
CONTRACTS FOR two poultry farms and a dairy farm have been signed with an undisclosed foreign company, the Jamahiriya News Agency JANA reported on 4th December. The poultry farms, for completion in 30 months, will be sited at Jamil and Ujailat, both south east of Tripoli, and JANA says its output of eggs and chickens will meet the needs of 80,000 people. The dairy project, to be located at Ujailat, will have 400 cows, and is also due for completion in 30 months. The contracts were awarded by the People's Committee for Agrarian Reform and Land Reclamation in the town of Nigat al Khams.

The Libyan Jamahiriya aims to be self-sufficient in food by the turn of the century, and places particular emphasis on agri-industrial projects to boost output. On 2nd October it was announced that the Swedish firm of Alfa-Laval was holding final talks on supplying dairy farms and dairy processing plants. Although the number and size were not disclosed, contracts are likely to be substantial.

Alfa-Laval has worked in the Jamahiriya for several years. In 1979 it completed a fruit juice factory near Tripoli, and since the mid-1970s has supplied milk collection vehicles and centres. The company is also turnkey contractor for a 70,000 litre-per-day dairy products plant at Souk al Khamis, near Tripoli. Civil works are being undertaken by a South Korean firm, and completion was scheduled for the end of 1981.

Libya is also pressing ahead with a major programme to upgrade the quality of its pasture-lands. On 23rd October JANA announced that one major project, at Wushatah, 120 miles south west of Tripoli, had reached the half-way mark with 22,000 hectares of desert having been planted with grass. Part of the scheme entails reclaiming lands in the valleys for cultivation, and the aim is for the improved land to be handed over to be farmed by local residents.

Until Libya's domestic food production has increased substantially, imports will remain important. Rising incomes have led to a greater consumption of high protein foods, and there has been a particularly marked rise in demand for mutton, a traditional staple of the Libyan diet. On 9th October it was reported that the Jamahiriya was importing thousands of sheep from Turkey under a contract worth \$12.5 million. In September about 60,000 were shipped from the



Modern dairy farms in Libya take the country towards self-sufficiency in food supplies, which is seen as essential to real independence.

Turkish port of Trabzon, and another 40,000 from Mersin. On 6th November it was announced that Libya's National Company for Livestock and Meat was advertising in Australia for the supply of one million sheep during 1982.

British phone company gets a line

STANDARD TELEPHONES & Cables (STC) of Britain has won a \$943,750 order for trolley-mounted telecommunications equipment, it was revealed in November. The order was placed by the Italian firm SIRT, which with the Milan-based Pirelli and Fiat subsidiary Telettra, is working on a \$525 million contract to lay a country-wide co-axial cable network. The test equipment will be used to verify that the network's frequency response matches specification.

The Jamahiriya's 1981-85 development plan calls for the extension of the country's telephone network so that there will be one telephone for every six citizens by the middle of the decade. Since 1976 West Germany's Siemens has been working on a telephone network to link all parts of Libya, and on 23rd October *Middle East Economic Digest* reported that the firm had won four orders for telecommunication equipment, together worth \$40.4 million. The equip-

ment to be supplied, for delivery by the middle of this year, includes five mobile telephone exchanges.

LAFIC rescues Italian firm

THE JAMAHIRIYA'S newly-formed Libyan Arab Foreign Investment Company (LAFIC) was expected to conclude by the end of December a \$400 million takeover of the Italian steel and sugar group Mario Maraldi. The group was declared bankrupt last year and its debts, totalling about \$250 million, were frozen while the Italian government sought a purchaser.

Last November Mr Guido de Vivo, Maraldi's vice-president of finance, said LAFIC had by then satisfied two of the three conditions of purchase. First, the 40 creditor banks had accepted a cash payment of 33 per cent of outstanding debts, with the remainder to be settled later. Second, the Italian government's social security agency had agreed an arrangement for part-settlement of its credit to the group. The third condition of purchase, which was expected to be approved by the end of December, was acceptance by Italy's state sugar agency of similar terms for its frozen credit.

Maraldi's interests, mainly in northern Italy, are controlled by two holding companies. One controls six sugar beet factories

with a total output equivalent to 20 per cent of Italian sugar production. The second company has three steel operations: a steel pipeline factory, a plant for prefabricated steel structures, such as petrochemicals storage tanks, and a steel-plate hot rolling mill with an annual capacity of 150,000-180,000 tonnes. Maraldi's other interests include a 30 per cent stake in a major sugar factory in Spain and substantial real estate in Italy, most of which will be sold off.

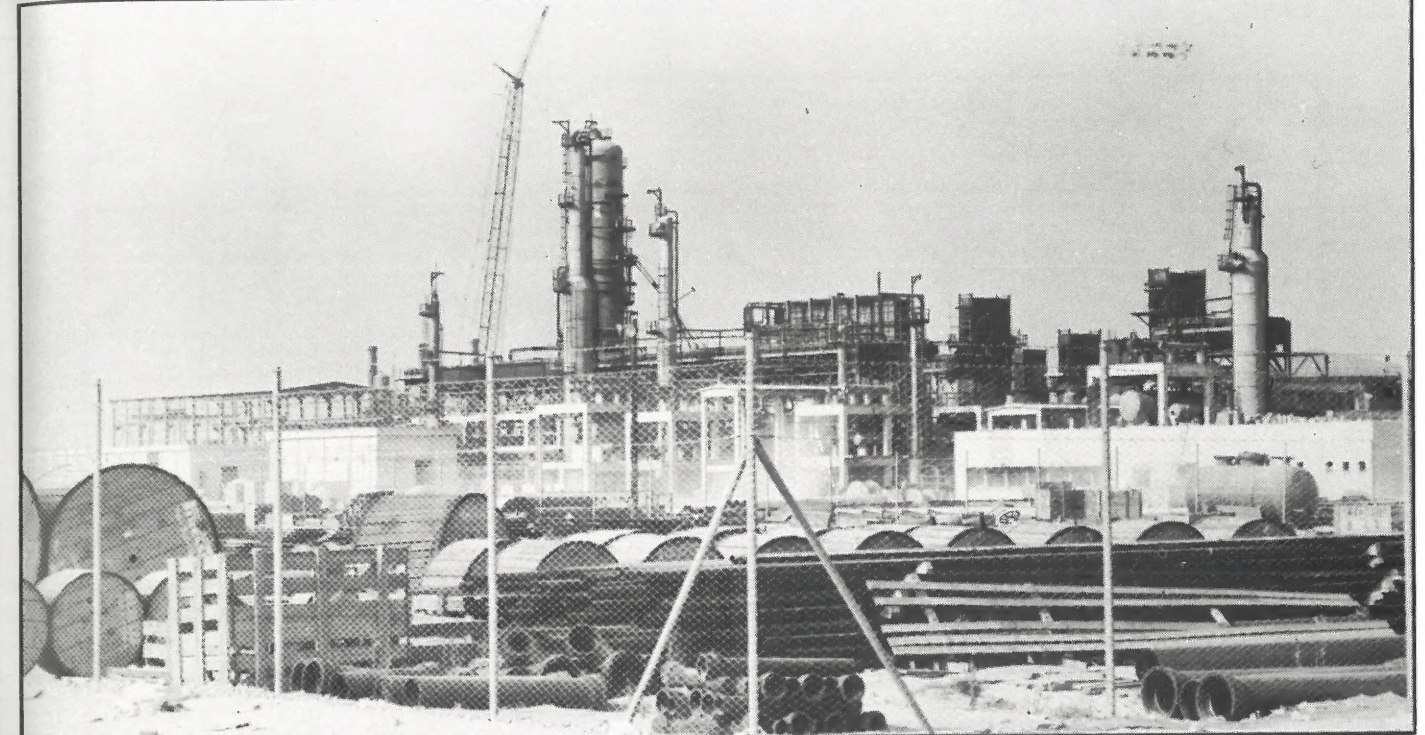
The Maraldi group will be LAFIC's first major acquisition since it was formed last September to deal with all the Jamahiriya's direct, non-banking investments abroad. The company is capitalised at \$1.7 billion, mostly accounted for by the Jamahiriya's non-banking interests, which stand at about \$1.5 billion. The largest single investment which LAFIC manages is the 9.09 per cent of ordinary shares and the same proportion of preference shares in the Italian Fiat consortium, acquired in 1977. LAFIC will also manage all Libyan joint ventures with other countries. Other interests include hotels in Tunisia, Egypt, Morocco and Malta. Most of these investments were previously managed by the Libyan Arab Foreign Bank, the overseas operations arm of the Libyan Central Bank.

LAFIC, based in Tripoli, is directly responsible to Treasury Secretary Mr Qasim Sharlalah, a former Central Bank Governor. Chairman is Mr Taher Sialah, formerly with the Foreign Affairs Secretariat.

British petrochemicals contract for Ras Lanouf

SIM-CHEM Ltd and Imperial Chemicals Industries (ICI) of Britain have received letters of intent for contracts worth \$15 million relating to the 55,000 tonnes per annum low density polyethylene plant to be built at the Ras Lanouf petrochemicals complex on Libya's coast, about 350 kilometres south west of Benghazi.

The two companies will provide licensing and expertise, design, engineering and procurement services, and will also supply technical personnel during construction and commissioning. The plant, whose total cost will probably be about \$840 million, is scheduled to enter operation by late 1984. It will process ethylene from a 330,000 tonnes per annum capacity ethylene plant under construction at Ras Lanouf.



The Jamahiriya's expanding petrochemicals industry.

Ras Lanouf, which is destined to become the main centre of the Jamahiriya's petrochemicals industry, has been chosen as a possible location for a pan-Arab synthetic rubber scheme to supply Arab tyre manufacturers, according to October's Bulletin of the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC). The plant would have an annual capacity of 45,000 tonnes of styrene butadiene rubber and 25,000 tonnes of polybutadiene.

Tripoli airport expands to meet demand

SIR ALEXANDER Gibb & Partners of Britain have been appointed as consultants for a major expansion of Tripoli's international airport. The project, which the firm will design and supervise, entails a new terminal development and pavement work, including re-surfacing of the existing runways.

Tripoli's ultra-modern airport, which cost \$135 million, was opened in August 1978, and was designed to cope with traffic up to 1985. The expansion scheme, on which work is expected to start this year, will meet demand until 2000.

Sir Alexander Gibb & Partners are also consultants for an extension to the airport's parking apron, being built at a cost of \$54 million by South Korea's Samsung Construction Company under a contract won early last year.

There are also plans to build additional maintenance buildings, including hangars and an engineering and administrative centre. The consultancy is being handled by the Jamahiriya's National Consulting Bureau and its sub-consultant, Britain's Wallace Evans & Partners. Fairclough International of Britain is reportedly well-placed to win the construction contract, worth \$279 million.

Libya's airport development programme is being accompanied by a rapid expansion in the number of destinations served by the national carrier, Libyan Arab Airlines (LAA). The latest move to expand LAA's route network came on 10th November when Libya and the central African country of Rwanda signed an agreement allowing each other's national airlines to inaugurate regular low cost flights between the two countries.

In 1980 LAA carried a record 1,169,957 passengers, a ten per cent increase over 1979, and the figures are expected to rise to 3.6 million by 1985.

The Libyan Jamahiriya's rapid economic development has also meant a sharp rise in the volume of imports shipped by air. The London monthly *African Business* reported in October that the joint cargo venture between LAA and British Caledonian (BCal) initiated in April last year had so far carried over three million kilos of freight between London, Tripoli and Benghazi. Up to five flights per week are being operated from both Heathrow and Gatwick airports in London, using a Boeing 707-320C freighter, with a capacity of over 40 tonnes.

Under the agreement, BCal provides aircraft, while marketing is conducted by both carriers. A clear sign of the close working relationship established is that while Benghazi airport is closed to all overseas airlines, BCal aircraft are still allowed to land there.

Aid for Africa and Latin America

THE LIBYAN Jamahiriya has made a gift to the west African state of Benin of a French-built Dassault-Breguet Mystere-Falcon 50 executive jet, it was disclosed in December. Mr Mustafa Abu Setta, Libya's representative in Benin's capital Cotonou, said the aircraft would 'improve the freedom of movement of Benin's leaders by letting them move rapidly wherever they may be required to defend the interests of African peoples, and particularly those of Benin'.

The gift is the latest donation in the Libyan Jamahiriya's long standing programme of aid to African states. On 14th October the acting Secretary of the Libyan People's Bureau in Adis Ababa presented a cheque for \$1 million to the Organisation of African Unity's refugee fund at a ceremony at the OAU Secretariat.

Earlier, on 2nd October, it was announced that Britain's Mott Hay & Anderson, which has designed the 200 kilometre rail link between Tripoli and Misrata, had been appointed consultant for

a Libyan-financed road scheme in the central African state of Burundi. It is reported to be the first time that a western consultant working in Libya has been appointed to work on a Libyan aid project abroad. The British firm's Burundi contract was negotiated with the Jamahiriya's National Consulting Bureau, but much of the work will be done by the British company's Belgian associate Girec, which already has experience in Burundi. The work entails upgrading three roads, totalling 324 kilometres at a cost of about \$128.8 million. Tender documents for civil works are expected to be ready by March 1983.

The way was opened for Libyan assistance to Angola on 28th November when the Jamahiriya's Planning Secretary Musa Abu Freiwa signed two agreements on co-operation in agriculture and fishing. During his talks in Luanda with Angolan Finance Minister Ismael Martins, Mr Abu Freiwa also discussed the possibility of future agreements covering oil, heavy industry, mining and culture. The Libyan Secretary's visit followed two trips to the Jamahiriya during October by Angolan President dos Santos.

A characteristic of the Jamahiriya's overseas aid programme has been the establishment of joint ventures with governments. At the end of August it was announced that a joint Guyanese-Libyan agricultural company had started operations in the Latin American state. The company, 51 per cent owned by Guyana, was established after a January 1980 visit to Tripoli by Guyanese President Forbes Burnham.

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